

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 13

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

March 31, 2006

In brief

Internal medicine clinic closes

Tyndall Clinic's internal medicine clinic will close today. All current internal medicine enrollees were mailed a letter this week with more information, briefing times and locations. For more information, stop by the Tricare service center by the main pharmacy on the first floor of the clinic.



Daylight-saving time

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward Saturday night. Daylight-saving time officially begins Sunday.

What's inside

Raptor sortie rates soar
... PAGE 6



325th Services Squadron prepares for Eubank team visit
... PAGES 10-11



Veteran shares her World War II experience
... PAGE 15



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Twinkle twinkle

Janet Collins, Child Development Center child development program technician, leads children in song during a classroom activity at the center. "Month of the Military Child" starts Saturday and activities are planned throughout April. For information, contact the CDC at 283-4747 or the Youth Center at 283-4366.

ACC command chief tours Tyndall unit

2ND LT. WILL POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Fighting the global war against terrorism is a team effort that takes all Airmen – whether deployed or in garrison – to be successful, said Air Combat Command's top enlisted Airman during a base visit March 23 here.

"Just because you may not be forward in Iraq, Afghanistan or some other 'tip of the spear area,' does not mean you're not part of the fight," said Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, ACC command chief.

The chief was here to learn more about the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group's air-to-air weapons system evaluation pro-

grams and how they impact the Air Force and the nation's warfighting capabilities.

"It takes a lot of different team members to get our mission done, and without the 53rd WEG's tests, we would not be as effective as warfighters on the front-line," Chief Popp said. "Our Air Force aircrews do what they do safely (in Iraq) because of what (Airmen) do here."

Tyndall was his 17th base visit in less than 12 months. The command chief is touring various ACC units to learn about current unit problems and challenges and to look for benchmark ideas to share across the command.

His ACC tour has taken him to Iraq,

Afghanistan and Kuwait three times in the past seven months. His mission is to learn more about ACC's forward-fighting Airmen and to determine whether ACC has properly prepared them for overseas deployments.

"We're making a huge difference (in the Middle East)," he said. "I saw things there in June, in September and then again in January. We are doing a great job training our Airmen for what they can expect while they're over there, and we're doing a lot better with making sure they have the right gear when they get there."

● SEE ACC PAGE 14



Lisa Norman

Star struck

Retired Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez presents Airman 1st Class Peter Scalise, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, with a Load Crew of the Year Award for 2005 during a 325th Maintenance Group award ceremony March 17 at the Enlisted Club.

ON THE STREET

325th Contracting Squadron focus: What Services facility do you enjoy the most?



“The gym, not only because of the great facility, but also for the activities they host like 5K races and triathlons.”

1ST LT. REZA GRIGORIAN
Contract officer



“The golf course is a soothing place to go after a long week at work.”

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
BRAD NICHOLSON**
Contract specialist

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with “Identify This” in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The were no correct guesses for the March 24 “Identify This.” The photo may re-run for a third time in the future to give everyone a better chance. Better luck next time! Don’t be afraid to guess. You might get it right and get a prize!



“The bowling alley because it provides a fun and inexpensive way to spend time with my family.”

STAFF SGT. BRANDY KINSLEY
Contract specialist



“The Youth Center because it gives children a safe place to socialize.”

**MASTER SGT. JENETTA
LANGSTON**
Specialized contracts NCO in charge

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Tyndall observes April’s Air Force health observances

Prevention and awareness mark April as it’s National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Alcohol Awareness Month.



Courtesy photo
Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton meets with family members March 22 after signing the proclamation to launch April observances at the clinic.

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, signed a proclamation March 22 during an activities launch for the observances. Per the proclamation, the general authorized active-duty military members to wear either a blue or teal ribbon while in uniform to support the prevention of child abuse and awareness of sexual assault issues. If worn, the ribbon will be centered one-half inch above the name tape or one-half inch above the occupational badge.

During the proclamation ceremony, General Egginton stressed the importance of being a Wingman and said that education and awareness are critical tools to help all our Airmen fight against acts of violence and alcohol abuse.

“It truly is a community responsibility and we must all do our part at all levels if we are to succeed,” said Phylista Dudzinski, Tyndall’s sexual assault response coordinator.

For more information about child abuse prevention or responsible drinking, contact the family advocacy office at 283-7511. For more information about sexual assault issues, contact the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office at 283-8192.

(Courtesy of SARC office)

Observance activities

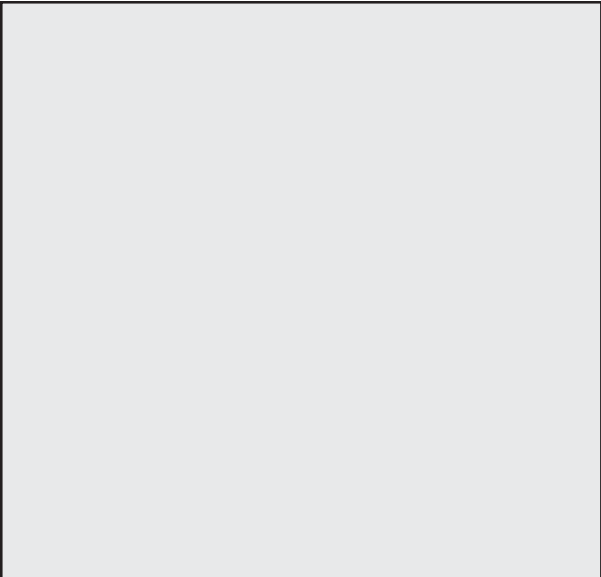
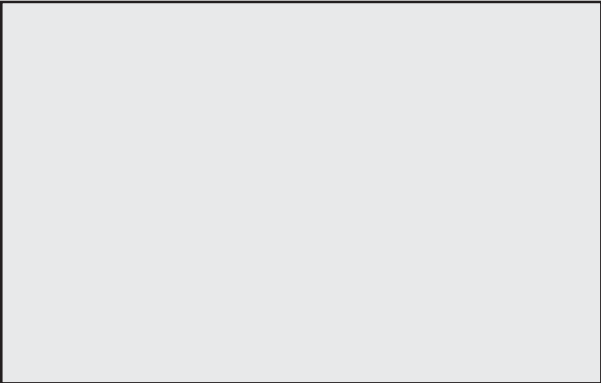
ADAPT health information

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment program will provide alcohol screenings and responsible drinking information 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Base Exchange and 325th Medical Group clinic.

Programs for parents

The following programs are available 8 p.m. at the Youth Center:

- Tuesday – Child lures
 - Thursday – Internet safety
 - April 11 – Discipline and the law
 - April 13 – Drugs and alcohol facts
 - April 18 – Communicating with your children
- Parents can sign up for the seminars at the Child Development Center or the Youth Center. For more information, contact Sheri Ward at 283-7511 or Alma Hooks at 283-8094.



● FROM ACC PAGE 1

He said what excites him most about talking to deployed Airmen is hearing their enthusiasm for their job and their mission, despite the dangerous environment.

“You might think Airmen over there are burned out or their morale is low, but I haven’t found anybody that way,” the chief said. “I find people are excited to be there, and many can’t wait to go back. Some people wonder why our retention is so high during a dangerous war. They’re staying because they’re trained and ready and they like what they’re doing. That’s exciting.”

An Airman for nearly 30 years and a command chief for the past 10, Chief Popp has experienced a few wars and conflicts. He entered the service during the peak of the Cold War, a time of great military buildup, and he has since seen the Air Force reduce its end strength numbers numerous times to adapt to a new and evolving mission.

Chief Popp said the current reduc-



Isaac Gibson

Senior Airman Brian Tucker, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, briefs Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command command chief, on the capabilities of the AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missile during the chief's base visit to Tyndall March 23.

tion in end strength is once again a response to a new mission.

“Some people are saying it’s the end of the Air Force as we know it,” Chief Popp said. “I say no, it’s the beginning

of a changed Air Force that can see our new missions we have. We’re streamlining our operations. This is how we’re going to be more efficient and get things done.”

RAO here may close soon

The Retiree Activities Office will soon be forced to close unless more people volunteer to keep it running. The ROA provides a source of information for the retiree community about pay and entitlements, vehicle registration, identification cards and more.

Office hours are from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers can work as many or few hours per week as they desire. For more information, or to volunteer, call 283-2737, or e-mail rao@tyndall.af.mil.

Help Us Conserve



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Raptor sorties soar: Monthly rate ‘supercruises’ to all-time high

MASTER SGT. MARY MCHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maintenance officials from the 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit credited a strong commitment to innovative thinking and teamwork for their significant increase in the unit’s monthly sortie rate for March.

A sortie counts as one local flight of an Air Force airframe, in this case, the F-22A Raptor.

“Our highest sortie count to date has been January of this year which was 187, but as of March 27, we were already at 245,” said Capt. Rognald Christensen, 43rd AMU officer in charge. “We’re looking at nearing 300 by the end of the month. There are a lot of people involved in our production effort. Along with the military maintainers, our contractors have a big part in maintaining particular aircraft



Courtesy photo

The first of Tyndall’s F-22A Raptor fleet lands here in September 2003.

systems and backshop functions like low observable. The LO shop is responsible for maintaining the coatings and aircraft low observable signature ensuring the stealth characteristics of this weapons system. All roles are critical for a successful sortie and all contributed to this month’s success.”

Contributing too, said the captain, was the operational side, the 43rd Fighter Squadron.

“Our fighter squadron counterparts allowed us the flexibility to try as many variations of aircraft scheduling and production as we could,” Captain Christensen said.


One of the flexible issues that worked all around – for both maintainers and pilot training – was hot-pit refueling.

During this procedure, the pilot taxis to a stop, leaves the engines running and gets refueled before taking off for another sortie.

“If it hadn’t been for the fighter squadron having that flexibility, there’s no way we would have been successful,” the captain said.

“Our AMU has done amazing work since we got our first jet,” said Lt. Col. Michael Stapleton, 43rd Fighter Squadron commander. “For the past two and a half years, they have put their blood, sweat and tears into launching these aircraft. Our job is to generate sorties for the American public, and the Airmen in the 43rd

● SEE SORTIE PAGE 17



Tyndall’s AFAF campaign is from Feb. 27 – April 9. The base is at 82.6 percent of the goal. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Trina Douglas at 283-8288.



CAC login available mid-April, mandatory in June

SENIOR AIRMAN STACEY HAGA

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

By mid-April, Tyndall network computer users can log in by using their Common Access Card or by using their identification and password, but starting June 1, CAC will be the only access to the network.

“The requirement to use the Common Access Card is a Department of Defense mandated security action,” said Capt Williams, 325th Communications Squadron information systems flight commander. “DOD considers the network to be a weapon system and mission essential. Because of this, secured access to these networks will be enabled to prevent data from being accessed by unauthorized personnel.”

The Network Control Center here is working in conjunction with the Air Education and Training Command Network Operations and Security Center to convert users' logon names to their CAC identification numbers. Users will need to reset their personal identification num-

ber if they forgot it or if the CAC is malfunctioning.

DOD policy mandates that all information transmitted, stored and processed on DOD networks must be protected. User names and passwords can be acquired through phishing, password cracking and other spying tactics. A CAC-enabled logon will make hacking more difficult. It requires a hacker or malicious intruder to have a physical means of identification, a valid certificate and a PIN. That is why DOD mandates the use of CAC certificates as positive means of identification to access secure Web sites.

In addition to providing more secure access for the DOD network, a CAC logon will benefit users. Users will only have to remember a six to eight digit PIN instead of numerous passwords. The PIN will never expire and the user will only need to change it if they forget it or believe it has been compromised.

The card also allows automatic access to secure Web sites like Air Force Portal and Virtual MPF.

“Users can come up to the military personnel flight (customer service) if they cannot get to a mobile unit or if they don’t have a Tyndall CAC certificate,” said

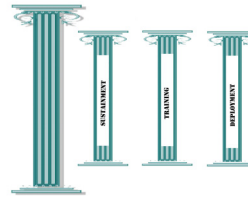
Tech. Sgt. Sheryl Monroe, 325th Mission Support Squadron customer support section chief.

Tyndall personnel will be required to update their CAC certificates if it has not been updated since their last permanent change of station.

Users who are having trouble with updating their CAC certificates should contact their squadron's client support administrator.

The NCC will have two machines that can reset PIN numbers set up at different units on Tyndall until April 18. Users can contact the help desk at 283-2622 to find out when their unit is scheduled.

FORCE PROTECTION





2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Hurricane Hunting

Maj. Ty Piercefield, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron C-130J pilot, displays a static radar picture of airspace surrounding Tyndall AFB in the cockpit of a C-130J Hurricane Hunter. The reserve squadron stationed at Keesler AFB, Miss., visited Tyndall March 24 to showcase the aircraft’s mission to Air Forces Northern personnel.

UNDER

CONSTRUCTION

Phase II construction is nearing completion at the Sabre Gate.

Traffic is re-routed to allow for phase III construction to begin. This work encompasses the paving of the Sabre Gate entrance requiring complete shut down of inbound and outbound lanes. Work is expected to last approximately seven days with an anticipated opening for traffic Monday.

During the gate closure, inbound traffic will continue to use the School Road Gate. All outbound traffic exiting the base from the housing area, golf course, marina and Youth Center will be diverted off Sabre to DeJarnette Road to Beacon Beach Drive where they must exit through the Illinois gate.

Checkertail Salute

2nd Lt. Joe Adams



Isaac Gibson

Lieutenant Adams receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Lieutenant Adams, 325th Contracting Squadron. He performed critical market research bringing immediate disaster relief to the Gulf region after Hurricane Katrina. He also volunteers in the local community.

Duty title: Contract specialist
Time in service: Ten months
Hometown: Tucson, Ariz.
Hobbies: Working out, riding motorcycles
Favorite book: “That Others May Live,” by Jack Brehm
Favorite movie: “Rocky IV”
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The people
Goals: Run one and a half miles in eight minutes, and swim 1,500 meters in 30 minutes
Proudest moment in the military: Graduating from college

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall’s Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

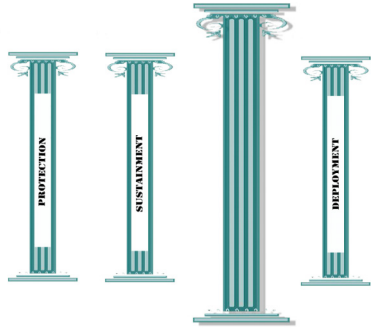
The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Fabiola Yanez, 325th Security Forces Squadron sentry.



Remember
Your
Wingman



FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What personnel issue do you confront most often in your unit and how has the NCO Academy better prepared you to address the issue?

“Financial management issues for new Airmen. The academy has enhanced my counseling skills, which will help me tackle this issue with my Airmen more effectively.”



TECH. SGT. DEREK GROELING
NCO Academy student

Rivalry creates challenge, top performance

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Friendly competition between brothers can be motivating. But when brothers are Air Force technical sergeants attending a challenging leadership course together, the rivalry could go one of two ways.

“When we found out we were going to be in the same class (at the NCO Academy), we called each other up right away and started planning,” said Tech. Sgt. Neil Puttbrese, NCO Academy student and the younger of two brothers attending the NCO academy here.

“We started e-mailing our run times back and forth before we got here,” said Tech. Sgt. Edward Puttbrese. “And on day one (of the course), we all took the physical fitness test. There was a little competitiveness between us. On the final leg of the race I had to stretch it out,” he said. “Neil encouraged me to push it up, and we both finished first; we crossed the finish line together.”

“At that point we made the determination to push each other, give each other a challenge and set ourselves above the standard, instead of competing,” said Sergeant Neil Puttbrese.

Growing up, the brothers spent time walleye fishing on lakes near their small northern Minnesota hometown. While they were competitive as kids, they say they’re “too old to compete now, so we challenge each other and become better for it,” said Sergeant

Edward Puttbrese.

When Edward left home to join the Air Force after high school, he kept close ties by sharing his experiences during basic military training with Neil, who would also join the Air Force after completing high school.

“My brother motivated me to join,” said Sergeant Neil Puttbrese, who is stationed at Eglin AFB, Fla., as an airbase defense instructor. “I would check in with my brother and hear all about his training. He offered a lot of great advice.”

Once on active duty, the brothers spent years devoting their time to careers in the service. Carrying out several six-month deployments and overseas assignments, the brothers found few opportunities to return to Minnesota and spend time together.

“Getting the same class date (for the NCO Academy course) was luck,” said Sergeant Edward Puttbrese, who is currently stationed at Offutt AFB, Neb., working with the Air Force Weather Agency. “We have both assumed leadership positions here; we’re trying to get the most of the experience. My role here is to help my brother stand out, but to do so, I don’t have to do much.”

Both technical sergeants have been nominated by their peers for the distinguished Commandant Award. Each of the 13 flights nominate one member for the award. A board of senior NCOs



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Tech. Sgts. Neil, right, and Edward Puttbrese are brothers who have challenged each other to excel while attending the six-week leadership course together here.

convenes to determine the top three individuals. The recipient is then chosen by Chief Master Sgt. Brad Hitzeman, NCO Academy commandant.

Remaining humble, the sergeants feel that with or without recognition, the course has been beneficial.

“Trying to do the best you can here keeps you gainfully employed,” Sergeant Neil Puttbrese said. “You definitely learn time-management skills.”

With a little time management, they may have a chance to plan a fishing trip back home.

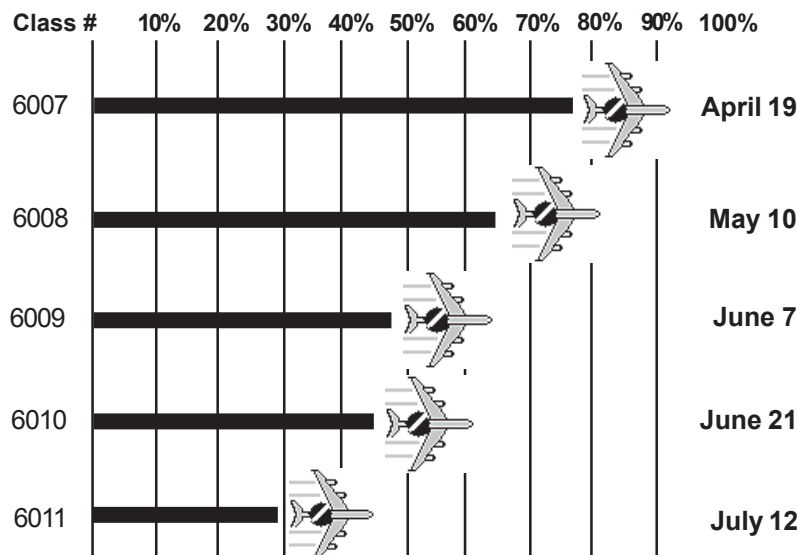


2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Under pressure

Tech. Sgt. Don King, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 F-15 crew chief instructor, refers to F-15 technical orders as he demonstrates safe procedures for adjusting tire pressure. During the 20-day training course, which turns mission ready airmen into qualified crew chiefs, instructors stress the importance of paying close attention to all cautions, notes and warnings in technical orders.

Air Battle Manager student progress chart



Services to 'show their stuff' to Eubank again

Signs are posted all around town, on base and off.

Palm trees, treasure chests and pirates are showing up all over the base. This is the welcome the 325th Services Squadron is giving to the Air Force Eubank award evaluation team who will be here Monday through Thursday.

The 325th SVS was recently recognized as the top small services unit in AETC for the fourth year in a row.

"This award is won by the entire community," said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander. "We don't do anything alone and this evaluation is no exception. We're counting on a Team Tyndall effort to bring home this prestigious award."

The theme chosen for the evaluation is "Treasure Island." Colonel Piccolo said the squadron chose the theme, "because it fits in well with our location and it allows us to highlight the 'treasures' the squadron has

to offer." The treasure comes in the form of great programs, world-class customer service, the best customers in the world and a bounty of wonderful employees.

Both the Eubank and LeMay (large base) Services awards were established by the National Order of the Daedalians in 1965 and 1990 respectively, to recognize the Air Force Services Program and its contributions to the military community. The Daedalians present a traveling trophy and an engraved plaque to the winners each year.

All major commands nominate one base in each category. Next week's on-site visit starts the two-part selection process. The primary focus of the evaluation asks "are customers' needs being met?" In combination with the evaluation, the Air Force Services customer feedback survey is reviewed by the Eubank team to determine the winning base.

"With just three full days to see everything the squadron has to offer, the evaluators will be moving quickly from activity to activity," said Randy Shircel, 325th SVS deputy commander.

The squadron is charged with running dozens of facilities and programs at Tyndall including the Berg-Liles Dining Facility, Child Development Center, Youth Center and Outdoor Recreation Complex, to name a few.

"We intend to show them as much as possible," Colonel Piccolo said. "But we don't want to do all the talking. We encourage the customers to be on the lookout for the evaluators and to let them know what the Services team does for them."

Services Airmen have been preparing for the evaluation, but admit that adjustments to their daily routines are simply not necessary.

"We focus on the customer regardless of an inspection or evaluation," said Senior Airman Montez Robinson, 325th SVS fitness specialist.

"We are continually upgrading, training and maintaining readiness."

"Improvements to facilities at Tyndall during the past year included the addition of the skateboard park and enlargement of the multi-purpose courts at the Youth Center, refurbishment of the ladies locker and shower facilities at the Fitness Center, replacing the fall zones with rubberized material at the Child Development Center and the conversion of 52 military family units to temporary lodging facilities (12 of which are pet friendly)," said Colonel Piccolo.

Other improvements include two boulder playgrounds, new canoes/kayaks, cardio theater and new cardio center flooring.

"All Services activities went into hyperdrive during the year with events like Tyndall Idol, Oktoberfest/Show and Shine, The Gong Show, the Florida voluntary pre-kindergarten program, Texas Hold 'Em, Starbuck's Coffee, free wireless Internet at the fam camp and Community Activities Center and new all-you-can eat menus at



Chrissy Cuttita

Morgan Mills and Lizette Brown enjoy karaoke at the Community Activities Center's Pizza Pub Tuesday.

Isiah J
treadm
Fitness
from S



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Jackson, 325th SVS maintenance technician, and Senior Airman Montez Robinson repair a mill motor in the Fitness Center cardio room. The Air Force "Fit to Fight" program has increased Center patronage to more than 400 customers a day. Constant maintenance and repair services staff keep machines in safe, working condition.

the club and pizza pub," said the colonel.

Tyndall families say they enjoy all the base has to offer. "We love the food and the entertainment," said Katie Carroll, who frequents the pizza pub with her family on Tuesdays when they host karaoke for kids and buffet. "It's good for the kids."

"The most important thing we can do during this evaluation is to highlight the great customers and terrific employees we have here at Tyndall," Mr. Shircel said. "We're already winners, so we're going to make sure we take this opportunity to highlight our superstars, and we're going to have some fun in the process."

The workload remains constant even when Services Airmen deploy or go on temporary duty. In the AETC

award package, they boasted deploying AEF warriors to Iraq, Cuba and Spain in support of the war on terror. They also said they were pivotal in local hurricane relief, sending dining service Airmen to Keesler AFB, Miss., to provide 5,500 hot meals within hours of devastation hitting the base and for providing lodging here and there for displaced persons.

"During deployments, our productivity remains 100 percent," said Airman Robinson. "We don't cut our hours because we're only 50 percent manned. We get the job done."

"We focus on our customer service," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Denny, 325th SVS dining hall manager. "Customer service is more than just a smile; it's checking our equipment, ensuring we have the best products and paying attention to detail."

As a four-time AETC award winning squadron, the goal of the 325th SVS is to advance and succeed at the Air Force level.

"It's time for us to 'kick in the door' and set the example Air Force wide," said Lou South, 325th SVS fitness director. "Our facilities are great, but it's our personnel that set us apart," he said.



Courtesy photo

Rick Vannoy, Auto Hobby Shop manager, helps a customer with car maintenance at the shop, located in the Arts and Crafts center.



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Airman Milagros Roman, 325th SVS food services specialist, completes the waste log after serving lunch in the Berg-Liles Dining Facility.

"Maintaining the squadron's high standards may seem like a daunting task, but the Services folks take great pride in providing the best services available to Team Tyndall," said Mr. Shircel. "That's evident in their accomplishments."

(Compiled by 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Jordan Davis, library volunteer, reads to a crowd of children and their parents during the weekly story time and activity held every Wednesday morning at the base library.

Gulf Guide

Briefs

Re-enlist with the Thunderbirds

If you are eligible for re-enlistment in the month of April and would like to have a Thunderbird team member re-enlist you, contact Master Sgt. Kenneth Tate at 283-4856 or via e-mail at kenneth.tate@tyndall.af.mil. The deadline to sign up is Thursday.

Tricare town hall briefing

The 325th Medical Group Tricare Operations office is co-hosting a city wide TricareTown Hall Briefing 6–8 p.m. April 18 at the Tyndall NCO Academy. This briefing is open to all Tricare and Tricare For Life beneficiaries who are interested in their health care program. The Medicare Part D prescription plan and skilled nursing versus long-term care will also be discussed. Parking is available directly across the street near Burger King. For additional information, call 283-7331.

Giant book sale

The Naval Support Activity Panama City Navy Exchange is hosting a book sale during regular exchange hours until Saturday. All Department of Defense identification card holders and others with base-access privileges can participate in this sale. For more information, call the NEX at 235-3309.

Thrift Shop hours

Consignments are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays through Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. Personnel with PCS orders may consign 80 items, of which 40 may be in-season clothing. They can consign one time starting 60 days prior to departure to 60 days after arrival, by appointment. A copy of the PCS orders is required. For more information, call 286-5888.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday–Friday in Bldg. 747. For more information, call 283-4913.

Work-study position at GCCC

The Gulf Coast Community College Tyndall office has a work-study position

open. Applicants must be a Gulf Coast student receiving federal financial aid and taking six credit hours. The position is 20 hours a week, 4 – 8:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 4 – 6 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 283-4332 or stop by room 45-A at the Education Center.

Gulf Coast Community College registration

The summer and fall schedules will be available April 10 with early registration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 12 at the Education Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

Gulf Coast Community College class enrollment

The GCCC's placement test is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Education Center. For more information, call 283-4332.

Soccer referee course

A soccer referee course will be offered 6 – 9 p.m. Tuesday–Thursday. The course is open to anyone at least 13 years old. The initial course registration fee is \$30. For more information, contact Senior Airman William Atherton at 774-1649 or 282-4707.

Better Business Bureau scholarship

The Better Business Bureau Foundation of Northwest Florida is accepting applications from students in Bay County high schools for its 2006 BBB Student Ethics Scholarship Program.

The program offers three \$1,000 scholarships to three high-school juniors or seniors who plan to attend an accredited college in the U.S. or Canada. To apply for the scholarship, students should contact their principal or guidance counselor. Entries must be postmarked by May 19. For more information, contact the Better Business Bureau at 429-0026 or (800) 729-9226.

Virtual obstacle course

Fitness workshops are 3 p.m. today at Heritage Park and continue every Friday. Learn how to create a training plan for any environment. For information, call Lt. Col. (Dr.) Dan Kulund at 283-7717.

New Burger King hours

Burger King operating hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday–Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

AETC special duty references

Air Force members who missed the AETC special duty briefing team's visit here can still apply for special duty through a variety of sources. For more information about recruiter opportunities and an application, visit www.afrecruiting.com. For military training instructor information, visit their Web site, www.lackland.af.mil/737web/main.cfm. For information regarding military training leader special duty opportunities, visit their Web site, <https://hq2af.keesler.af.mil/MTL>. For professional military education or technical training instructor applications, contact the 325th Mission Support Group personnel flight at 283-2766.



Courtesy photo

Guns blazing

The re-enactment team "Sky Soldiers" will pay a tribute to patriots with an explosive Vietnam War Air Calvary re-enactment April 22-23 at the Gulf Coast Salute 2006 here. The show will feature up to 12 aircraft (helicopters and fixed wing) and pyrotechnic effects.



Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)



2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Serves up!

James Mitchell, 81st Range Control Squadron weapons director technician, serves during a racquetball match at the Fitness Center Thursday. He and his fellow members of the Tyndall Honor Guard participate in daily PT sessions at the Fitness Center.

Soccer gives Airmen morale a ‘kick’

ELISA ESTERLEY
325th Mission Support Squadron soccer team

Sports. What a great way to meet people who all share the same passion.

Not only are they fun and competitive, but sports can teach a team to grow with group focus and group fitness. It is also great for personal morale and squadron morale.

Tyndall has a diverse sports program. One of the sports in session right now is soccer.

Soccer teams welcome not only enlisted Airmen, but also civilians, officers and family members.

Even with such a diverse group, teams seem to be able to laugh and joke around and remain a unified team.

“Soccer is good for Tyndall Airmen because it gives them a chance to interact with a different variety of people - officers and Airmen, women and men,” said Edith Smith, 325th Mission Support Squadron team defender.

Soccer is a widely known sport, and because of the base’s “melting pot,” different people are able to bring different ideas and strategies to the game.

“I’m from a third-world country, and soccer is one of the only sports we had over there,” said

Celene Delice, 325th MSS team defender, “It is in my blood. That is why I continue to play it here.”

Soccer is a great source of physical fitness, all the players agree.

“It is a whole body workout that keeps you fit to fight,” said Michelle Tufano, 325th MSS team player.

In soccer, players must use their body to run, kick, slide, block and if the player is a “keeper,” catch the ball.

Soccer also gives participants a variety of activity during the workout.

“This sport mixes up the exercise plan a bit,” said Smith. “I get to knock people down and exercise at the same time.”

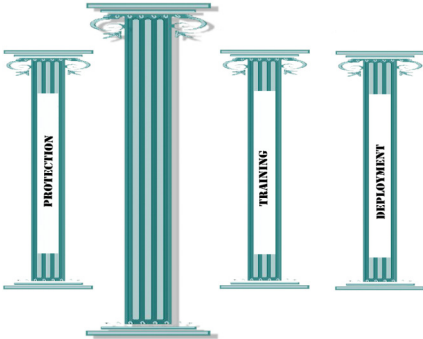
Soccer is a team-building sport that requires players to interact with each other to accomplish what is on all of the players’ minds – goals.

“One of the benefits of soccer is it helps develop team-building and leadership skills,” said Tufano.

The win-to-lose ratio doesn’t even seem to faze the teams; what matters most is the social and physical benefits.

For more information on Tyndall’s sports programs, contact the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Intramural Sports Standings

Soccer

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
372 TRS	4	0	ACS	2	3
OSS	4	0	83 FWS	1	2
MDG	3	1	TEST	1	3
AMXS	3	2	MSS	1	3
MXS	2	2	53 WEG	0	3
COMM	2	2			

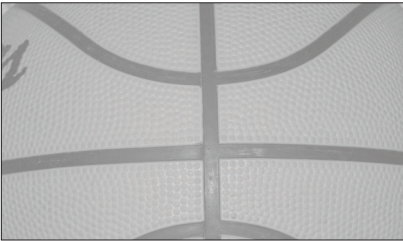
Volleyball

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
OSS	3	0	COMM	1	2
MXS	2	0	CES	1	3
CONR	2	0	372 TRS	0	1
AFCESA	2	0	ACS 2	0	1
83 FWS	2	0	CPTS	0	2
SEADS	2	1	MSS	0	2
ACS	1	1	AFRL	0	3

Bowling

Team	W	L	Team	W	L
601st 2	144	80	CS 1	110	114
SFS	143	81	RED HORSE	108	116
AMXS	138	86	CES	108	116
MXS - Phase	138	86	AMMO	106	118
1st AMU 3	133	91	ACS 1	104	120
1st AMU 2	131	93	NCOA	104	120
IAM	128	96	601st 1	104	120
MSS 2	124	100	53rd WEG	100	124
MSS 1	122	102	83 FWS 2	98	126
MXS 1	122	102	CONS	95	129
Test	122	102	ACS 2	94	130
AFCESA	116	108	CS 2	94	130
OSS	116	108	MOS	89	135
1st AMU 1	115	109	AAFES	86	138
83 FWS 1	113	111	Med Gp	84	140
SVS	111	113	1FS	76	148

Final Four is announced.
Who is taking March Madness? What has been the most surprising game moment in the competition?



Send all comments to editor@tyndall.af.mil.

● **FROM FAIL PAGE 3**

reins are loosened up a bit when they leave Lackland AFB in San Antonio, but they are still held to a high standard, and they have to be focused to pass the academic portion of their technical schools.

Finally, the Airmen arrive at their first duty station. Maybe they are lucky enough to have a sponsor appointed before they arrive. Maybe their sponsor actually meets them (in uniform) at the airport, and maybe their sponsor takes the time to sit down and go over the standards and expectations before turning them loose. Maybe not.

Here is how the scenario usually plays out. Their sponsor shows up to meet them in shorts and a T-shirt. It's easy to spot "their troop" because our Airman shows up proudly wearing a service dress uniform.

The sponsor walks over to Airman Newbie and introduces himself/herself: "Tom/Susie (that's Airman Newbie's first name), I'm Bill/Laura (what the sponsor meant to say was Staff Sgt. Smith). Welcome to your new home!"

After the gathering of Airman Newbie's luggage comes the ride to base, during which Bill explains to Tom how terrible things can be. After all, there are countless exercises, inspections, deployments, visits and long hours because many Airmen in the shop are deployed. Furthermore, there is not a whole lot of time left, nor is there a lot for an 18 year old to do off duty.

Then, Bill drops Tom off at the dorm where the first person he runs into is Airman Sometime, who is being discharged for minor disciplinary actions. Naturally, Airman Sometime is the resident barracks lawyer and personnelist, and proceeds to give Airman Newbie the "real story" about the base.

Bill introduces Tom to everyone in the workcenter, and after some inprocessing actions they all head off base in their battle dress uniforms for lunch at a nice sit-down restaurant. Airman Newbie seems confused because there are a lot of civilians in business attire. He remembers being told that BDUs should only be worn off base for short convenience stops or to fast-food restaurants and establishments where similar attire is worn.

No worries, because according to the sponsor, this is the "real Air Force" and Airman Newbie needs to forget all that stuff he was taught up until this point in his short, yet structured, career.

If this seems far-fetched to you, wake up! It happens every day, and that is where we fail our young Airmen. So, how do we fix this problem?

First, start our Airmen off on the right foot. Be a great sponsor to them; help them get settled into their new surroundings; turn challenges into opportunities. In other words, meet them at the airport in uniform. Let them know they are part of the best and busiest organization in the Air Force.

Tell them that although they will be extremely busy, they will be

contributing to an organization that has an outstanding reputation and work ethic, and we need them to give 100-percent effort if we hope to maintain our reputation.

Next, adopt the motto used at many technical training centers: "Train 'em right, train to fight." In other words, set your troops up for success, not failure. Ensure they understand their role in the upgrade training process. Make sure they know who to contact if they are having trouble understanding and surround them with successful Airmen. And follow up on their progress.

Third, lead by example. Ensure you are in compliance with dress and appearance standards. Polish your boots. Replace the "world tour" T-shirt you wear with your BDUs with an authorized one. Comply with the spirit and intent of Air Force instructions. Make sure you are living up to the roles and responsibilities for your current grade, as they are outlined in Air Force guidance.

Finally, help them understand they are Airmen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. That means 100 percent compliance with standards, 100 percent of the time, not just when they are at their workcenter.

If, after all this, one of your Airmen still does not get it, then help him out the gate, and back into civilian life. You can do so with your head held high, knowing you were the solution, not a part of the problem.

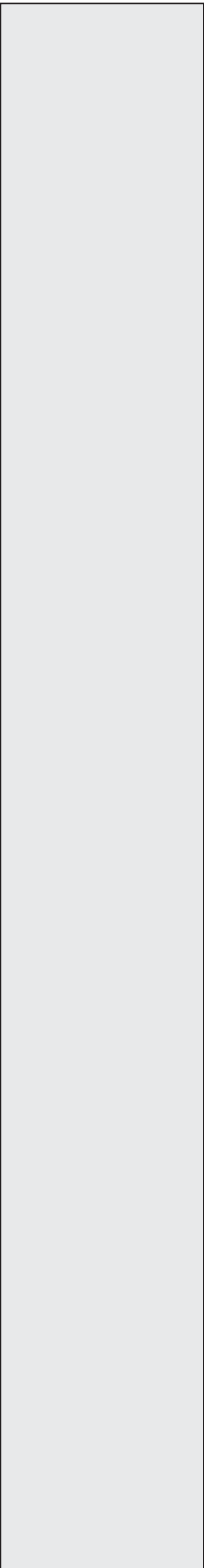
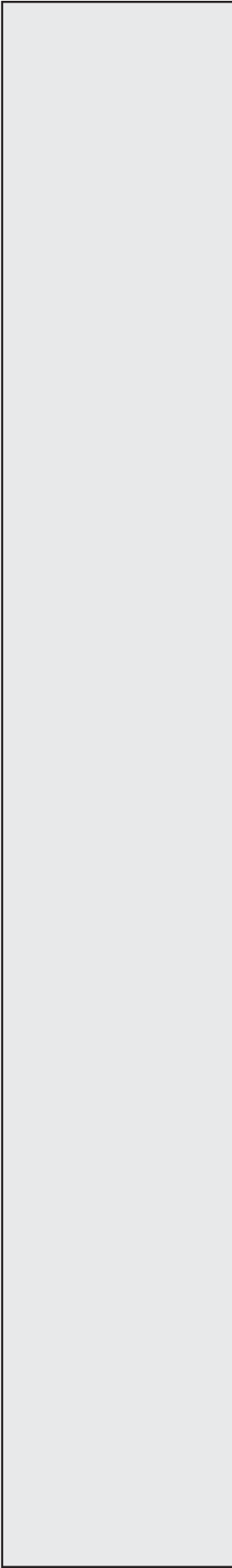
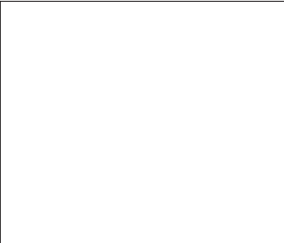
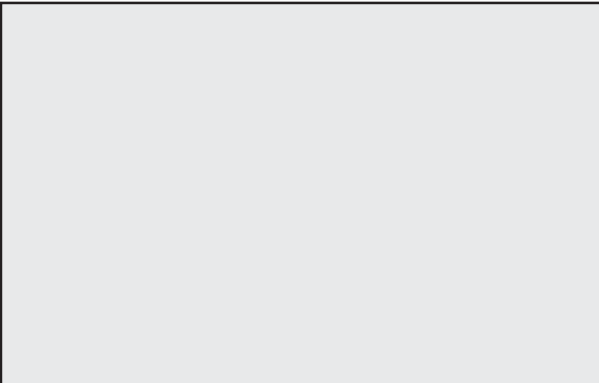
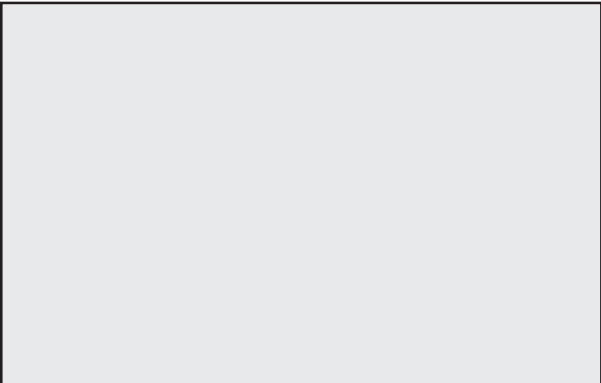


This week in Air Force history ...

April 1, 1954—The Bill creating the Air Force Academy is signed by President Eisenhower.

April 2, 1951 – The establishment of the Air Research and Development Command is announced.





A war veteran shares her 1940s WASP experience

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

She helped set the standard for future female Airmen, contributed to the Air Force becoming a separate service and she and her friends put themselves proudly in harm’s way far from home to serve the Army in an experimental flying program at their own expense, all in the name of patriotism.

“At that time, everyone was doing something, and I felt obligated to help with the war,” said Deanie Parrish, Women Airforce Service Pilots veteran. “For me, I felt flying was my way to contribute.”

A native of Avon Park, Fla., Ms. Parrish quickly became famous in her small home town for being the only female pilot during her teenage years,



Ms. Parrish sits by her old aircraft in a recent photo. Inset: A photo of her working on the Tyndall flightline in the early 1940s.

she said. Her town was even more surprised when she joined the Army at 21, which was the required age to apply for the service.

“I wanted to show all those good-looking male cadet instructors that girls could fly just as good as the boys,” said Ms. Parrish. “Besides, the only other things to do for fun in Avon Park was go to the movies.”

Her only challenge was saving enough money from her earnings as a bank employee to pay for her pilot’s license and the travel fare to Avenger Field, Texas.

In 1942, when there was a severe shortage of male pilots, Jacqueline Cochran, America’s foremost female pilot, convinced Gen. Hap H. Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces, she could bring together a corps of seasoned women pilots and train them the “Army way.” The female pilots could replace the male pilots being sent overseas, according to WASP records online.

When they heard the call, 25,000 young women from across America responded, but the requirements for acceptance of females were tougher than of men. Only 1,830 of the women volunteers were accepted. In 1943, the U.S. Army transformed Avenger Field into the only military flying school for women.

“Our training program was the same as the one male cadets were going through all over the country: ground school, flight school, cross-country flying, night flying, instrument flying, daily calisthenics, flying link trainers, and constantly march-

ing – the Army way,” said Ms. Parrish. “At the end of each phase of flight training, we were given Army check rides by Army Air Force officers. Those who didn’t pass washed out, packed their bags and paid their way back home.”

During training, Ms. Parrish, for the first time, met other women who loved flying like her. Even with her experience as a volunteer for the Civil Air Patrol, she didn’t meet any other female pilots in Florida.

“Back home, girls grew up expecting to be wives, mothers and maybe a nurse or a teacher, but they were not expected to have a professional career and flying was far out there,” said Ms. Parrish, who still bonds with other WASPs through her volunteer efforts to preserve their history. “I wanted to do something no one had done, pave the way, and forever change the way of aviation. Someone had to do it, we had to start somewhere.”

After earning her WASP wings, Ms. Parrish was assigned as an engineering test pilot at Greenville,



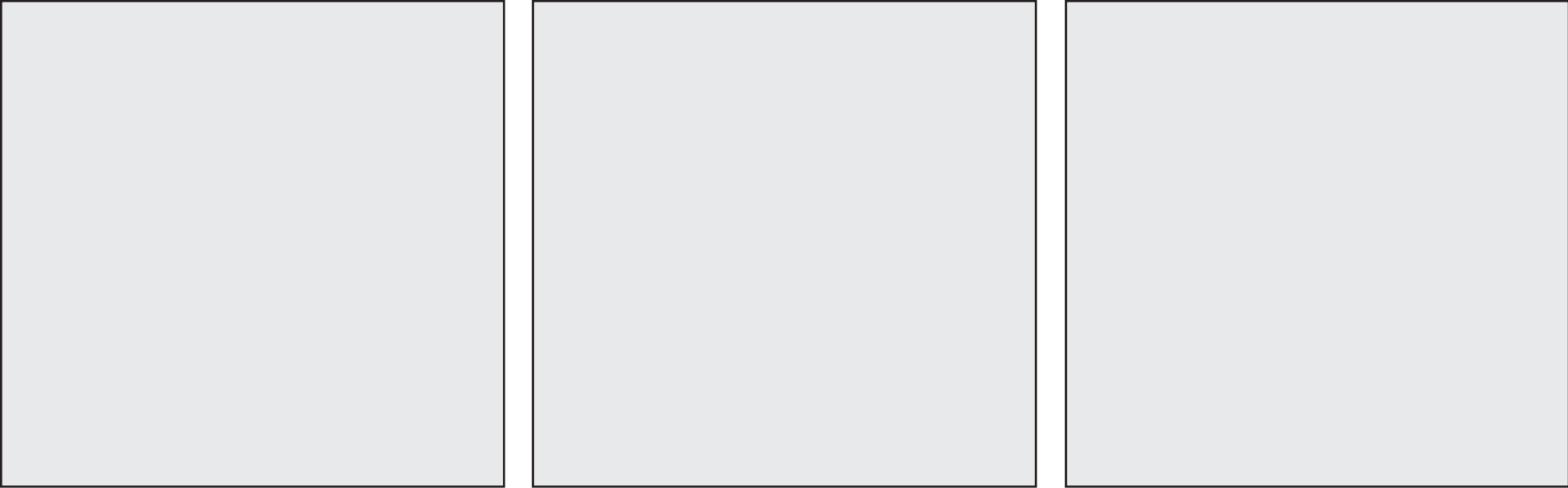
Courtesy photo

Deanie Parrish, bottom row, center, poses with other Army Airforce pilots. As a WASP, she wanted to show girls could fly like any “one of the guys.” Her husband stands in the back row, second from the right.

Miss. After the red-lined planes were fixed, she and other WASP test pilots flew them to ensure they were air worthy for the cadets to fly.

“WASP lived in the officers’ quarters and took their orders from (Army) Air Force commanders,” said Ms. Parrish. “WASP flew every type of aircraft the Air Force owned – trainers, fighters and bombers – and they flew them in all kinds of weather and under all kinds of adverse conditions. They ferried personnel and hauled cargo; they delivered aircraft to points of embarka-

● SEE WASP PAGE 18



Funshine NEWS

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☆ Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site ☆

www.325thservices.com

Change Your World
@ your Library™
Bookmark Contest
April 4 - 30

3 AGE GROUPS:
4 - 8
9 - 12
13 - 18

The best from each group will be printed and used all year at the Tyndall Library.

283-4287

CRUSTANO'S
SANDWICH CRAFTERS

GRAND OPENING
April 17
at the Bowling Center

Try our new variety of delicious sandwiches!

283-2380

GIVE PARENTS A BREAK

"Free child care during stressful times"

April 7
6 - 11 p.m.

* Please note: April 22 has been cancelled.

Compliments of the Air Force Aid Society
For details, call 283-4747.

9th Annual BIG BUNNY EGG HUNT
April 15 at Tyndall Youth Center

1-4 years old	10 a.m.
5-8 years old	11 a.m.
9-12 years old	1 p.m.

\$5
includes games & inflatables
B.Y.O.B. - bring your own basket

Wood Manor and Pelis Lake housing residents are encouraged to walk to the center due to limited parking around the center.

GLOW IN THE DARK EGG HUNT
(for teens only)
April 14, 7:30 p.m.
For ages 13-18 (ID may be required)

\$5 non-members - \$3 members
B.Y.O.B. - bring your own basket B.Y.O.F. - bring your own flashlight

15,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes

For details call **283-4366**

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)
(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____

Boaters can sail into a new dock at Tyndall’s marina

SENIOR AIRMAN STACEY HAGA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A recent renovation to Tyndall’s Beacon Beach Marina Club docking area has made the facility even better for those who frequently sail in.

High tides caused by hurricanes in the past few years damaged the wood docks on the east side of the marina. When rebuilding the docks, the marina decided to install a floating dock system, complete with utilities, that rises and falls with the water level. Its versatility will help it to endure the large swells brought on by inclement weather and make docking easier, said John Winebar, Beacon Beach Marina Club manager.

“It’s better for the (boaters),” said Mr. Winebar. “(The docks will) float together and no swing lines will be needed (to secure the boats).”

The building of the \$350,000 dock started in December and is scheduled to be finished Saturday. Once completed, it will provide 42 wet slips, giving the

marina a total 94 wet slips in addition to the 170 dry slips, said Mr. Winebar.

A wash station for boats and launch ramps are also located on the property.

Since 1968, the Beacon Beach Marina Club has offered the Tyndall community a place to relax, play or just get away from it all without leaving the base.

The marina features a diving club, canoe and kayak rentals and a charter boat that tours the bay and gulf. Marina staff also boast about their snack bar, lounge area and a two level outside deck with a view of the bay and Shell Island.

“Their grouper sandwich is excellent and their soup and salad bar is always great,” said Debbi Whitcomb, who dines at the marina regularly.

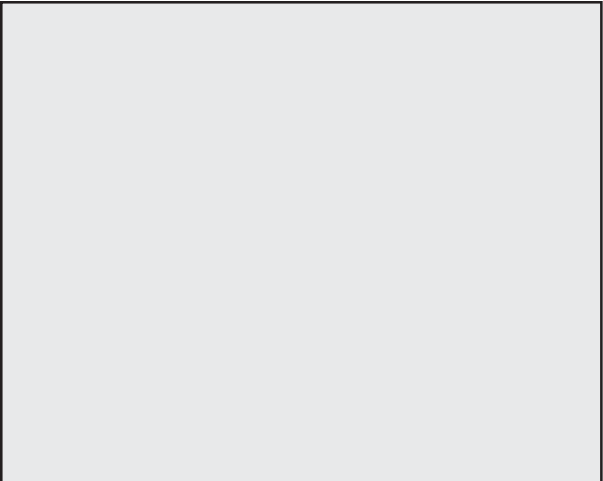
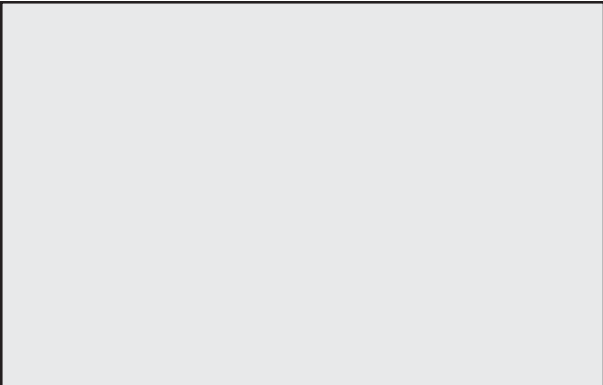
Once the new dock construction is complete, the marina will begin rescheduling monthly boat regattas and other events.

For more information about Beacon Beach Marina Club, call 283-3059.



Senior Airman Stacey Haga

Personnel install electric wiring into the new floating dock system at Tyndall’s marina. This is the final phase of construction before boaters can use it in early April.



● FROM SORTIE PAGE 6

are awesome at that job.”

“We’re proud to wear the patch,” said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Aderholdt, 43rd AMU NCO in charge.

Chief Aderholdt said the issue initially became apparent during a daily morning production meeting.

“About two weeks ago, we saw that we were way ahead of where we normally are at the same time of the month since we have a sheet we use to compare to previous months.”

It was then he and the others realized if they could successfully fly the schedule for the rest of the month, they could double their max sortie count.

“That was the challenge at our production meeting every morning – to get a daily update and make sure everyone was on the same page and motivated,” Chief Aderholdt said. “We wanted to be able to tell the world that even faced with all the challenges we’re faced with, that we can still, with the right attitude and mix of manpower, fly the pants off this airplane.”

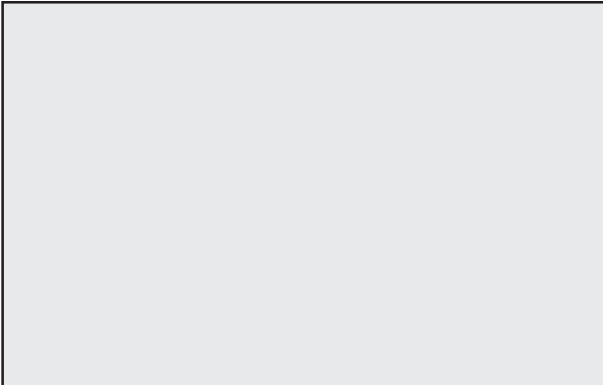
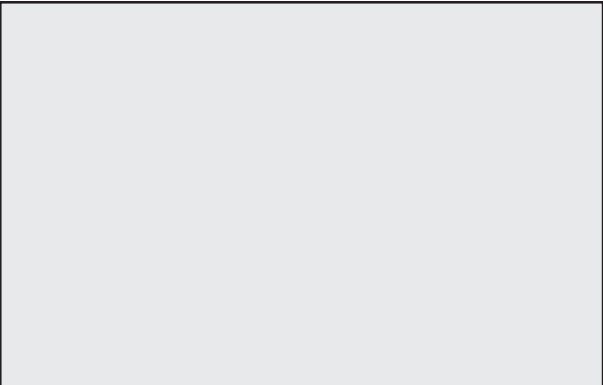
And the challenges are mixed. The chief said they range from transitioning seasoned maintainers from established legacy weapon platforms to the F-22A to in-processing newly-assigned Airmen.

“When we in-process people, we tell them there are two things we will not tolerate,” said Chief Aderholdt. “One is not using technical order data and the other is doing something that is detrimental to the morale of this unit. We’re very passionate about those two subjects.”

Since the newest weapons system arrived on station in September 2003, both the captain and chief agree it’s been an ongoing learning experience for all involved, but as this month sortie rate attests, it’s an experience that’s constantly evolving toward the positive.

“Our maintainers are getting more comfortable with the jet and their system knowledge is growing incredibly,” said Chief Aderholdt. “When that happens, they go out and fix them faster and have more accurate fixes. That means we fly more sorties since it frees up manpower so we can put our focus on where it needs to be.”

“The bottom line is that while this technology is amazing, our people make the mission and it’s as clear as it’s ever been that the people on the flightline and in the backshops have made the difference for the 43rd,” Captain Christensen said. “It’s just purely the people learning their jet and working hard.”



● FROM WASP PAGE 15

tion; and they test-flew new planes, old planes, rebuilt planes and some planes that male pilots refused to fly. And they delivered many old war-weary airplanes to the junkyards and scrap heaps of America.”

Her most memorable assignment was here at Tyndall, in 1944, for two reasons. First, as a tow-target pilot, she had the ability to master her flying skill in a twin-engine aircraft most pilots felt was too dangerous to fly, the B-26 Martin Marauder. It became her favorite plane to fly. It had short wings and appeared to have no support, hence the reason the aircraft was nicknamed “Widow Maker,” “The Flying Coffin” and others.

“I towed targets for ground-to-air anti-aircraft gunnery practice, and targets for air-to-air gunnery practice – always for gunnery trainees firing live ammunition,” said Ms. Parrish. “Needless to say, these were ‘green gunners’ which means they were learning and some couldn’t shoot as straight as others. The plane had the worst training record but was the best in combat.”

The second reason Tyndall was so memorable for her became a life-long treasure. It was a routine training mission that resulted in the base commander walking her down the chapel aisle.

“During a target-towing mission, 1st Lt. Bill Parrish instructed his gunners to aim close so he could meet the ‘cute girl pilot’ towing the target,” she said. “They came so close, they put a few holes in my tail. When I landed, I started to give Bill a piece of my mind, but instead, I fell in love and we were married for 47 years,” said Ms. Parrish.

In less than two years, WASP flew more than 60 million miles for their country before they were disbanded in 1944, according to a WASP Web site. They flew every kind of non-combat mission the Air Force had and 39 of them made the ultimate sacrifice.

“At hundreds of air bases all over America, the WASP hung up their Army parachutes for the last time, packed their bags and paid their way back home,” said Ms. Parrish who never even held rank. “There were no GI benefits, no fringe benefits, and no dress parades – just the satisfaction of knowing they had done their duty and they had completed their mission.”

That same motivation and determination is still instilled in the WASP veterans. By meeting one of them, the feeling can get contagious, said Nancy, Ms. Parrish’s daughter, who stopped working to help her mother build a WASP museum and plan a memorial for their World War II service in a 1929 hangar where they trained.

“They make you believe you can do anything,” said Nancy Parrish, who has attended WASP conferences and conducted 119 WASP interviews in 19 states with her mother. “That message and the lives they led inspire me.”

“Looking back, I see it was risky,” said Ms. Parrish. “It was absolutely dangerous. But at the time, you just assumed everyone takes risks in a time of war and with faith you would make it through.”

The WASP program was experimental and “hush-hush,” so the women pilots couldn’t write home about what they were doing, the veteran explained. They didn’t want to jeopardize the program.

Ms. Parrish’s parents understood the need to be patriotic and provided support, just like many others from the “Greatest Generation.”

Her daughter is just now learning about her parents’ military service. Before, Nancy only knew her mom and dad were war veterans, one a WASP and the other who almost died in combat.

“I haven’t heard all the stories yet,” said Nancy, who describes the WASP veterans she collects historical data from as strong, fearless, loving, patriotic and not tolerant of people who don’t work hard.

More information on WASP history and Ms. Parrish’s scrapbook can be found online at wasp-wwii.org, a Web site created by the Parrish family.

